

INTIMATIONS

WAR CHARITIES.

A MEETING of the EUROPEAN MEMBERS of the General Committee of the War Charities will be held in the BOARD ROOM of Messrs. JAMES MATTHEWS & CO. on FRIDAY, 7th June, at 5.15 P.M.

BUSINESS.—To consider a suggestion for the stimulation of regular subscriptions to the Fund by inviting the co-operation of the British Clubs in the Colony.

Hongkong, June 4, 1918. 489

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

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[387]

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| 7298 | Lantern Land | " |
| 7299 | England every time for Me | " |
| 7300 | That Hula Hula | " |
| 7301 | Dear old Mother | " |
| 7302 | Bad as you are, I love you | " |
| 7303 | I know a Lovely Garden | Tenor |
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Hongkong, June 4, 1918. 494



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CHINESE MARRIAGES.

Recently there was some discussion in our columns, says the "Straits Times," about Chinese marriage registration. It began to take a rather futile, personal tone and we had to close it, but in doing so we throw out a suggestion which we find has met with a good deal of favour among the better class Chinese. Our view was this: There is at present far too great a difference of opinion among the Chinese themselves to warrant the Government in making the registration of marriages compulsory, but on the other hand there is a sufficiently strong desire among the higher grade and educated Chinese in favour of registration to warrant the passing of a permissive law—i.e., to provide the complete machinery for registering Chinese marriages, leaving quite optional whether the parties to a marriage avail themselves of the facilities or not. We are told that this would fully meet the wishes of the reforming section of our Chinese community, and certainly it would place others at no disadvantage. It is a fact, we believe, that the desire to have a marriage clearly recognised and put on record is so strong that the assistance of the Chinese Consul is invoked for that purpose. But a great many of the Chinese who desire registration of their marriages are British subjects, and, in a strict legal sense, have no more claim upon the Chinese Consul than a Frenchman or a Dutchman or an Italian would have. As British subjects, they have a strong case when they say that British law ought to provide what they require, and it can be done on the lines we suggest by a very short and very simple ordinance, involving no controversial points and the fee for registration would relieve the Government of all expense. One of our correspondents points out that "You claim to make no invidious distinction as to religion, but registration is only possible if married in a Christian Church or before an English Registrar. What we want is a form of registration fitting into and not interfering with our Chinese marriage customs."

This much, we think, would have to be conceded, and would be willingly conceded—that no man should be allowed to have more than one legal wife at any one time. We are not asked to legalise polygamy. Registration is to distinguish whether the marriage is legal or illegal and therefore marriage without registration shall be illegal. As reasons given above, the establishment of this clause of law is necessary. The rules and forms of registration shall be regulated and fixed by the Registrar office. We desire to emphasise that nothing in the nature of forcing a system upon the Chinese is contemplated. We compel them to register births and deaths, because these vital statistics are considered necessary for the public good. We do not wish to compel them to register marriage, but marriage is the greatest event in a man's or a woman's life and we want to put it within their power to conform to the standards now being set in their own country and already accepted in all civilised countries, as the clause we have quoted says. It seems to us to be a simple act of justice to appoint a Registrar of Chinese Marriages, to lay down simple rules under which he will record the marriage of any persons who desire such registration to be made, and to declare that until such marriage is dissolved by death or by a decree of divorce it shall be the only marriage recognised by the law courts of the colony. Nothing more is necessary for the present. If at some future date the people desire registration to be made compulsory, it will be a simple matter to amend the law. For the present we merely urge, as an act of justice, the removal of a humiliating disability.

AUSTRIA UNFLINCHING FOE OF FREEDOM.

Reading the analysis by Dr. Holland of Austria's aims and policy, one could not help recalling the burning words which Gladstone, enjoying a period of "greater freedom and less responsibility," uttered concerning the Dual Monarchy in 1890, says the "Daily Chronicle." He delivered at Edinburgh the most uncompromising attack upon that Power which he ever uttered in all his career. It is still remembered and regarded as gratuitous. As a fact, it was provoked by the report, never denied, that the Austrian Emperor had publicly expressed a wish for the continuance in office of the Beaconsfield Ministry.

Austria, Gladstone declared, had ever been the unflinching foe of freedom in every country of Europe. "Russia, I am sorry to say, has been the foe of freedom, too; but in Russia there is an exception—Russia has been the friend of Slavonic freedom. But Austria has never been the friend even of Slavonic freedom. Austria did all she could to prevent the creation of Belgium. Austria never lifted a finger for the regeneration and constitution of Greece. There is not an instance, there is not a spot upon the whole map where you can lay your finger and say, 'There Austria did good.' A pertinent judgment in the light of current events.

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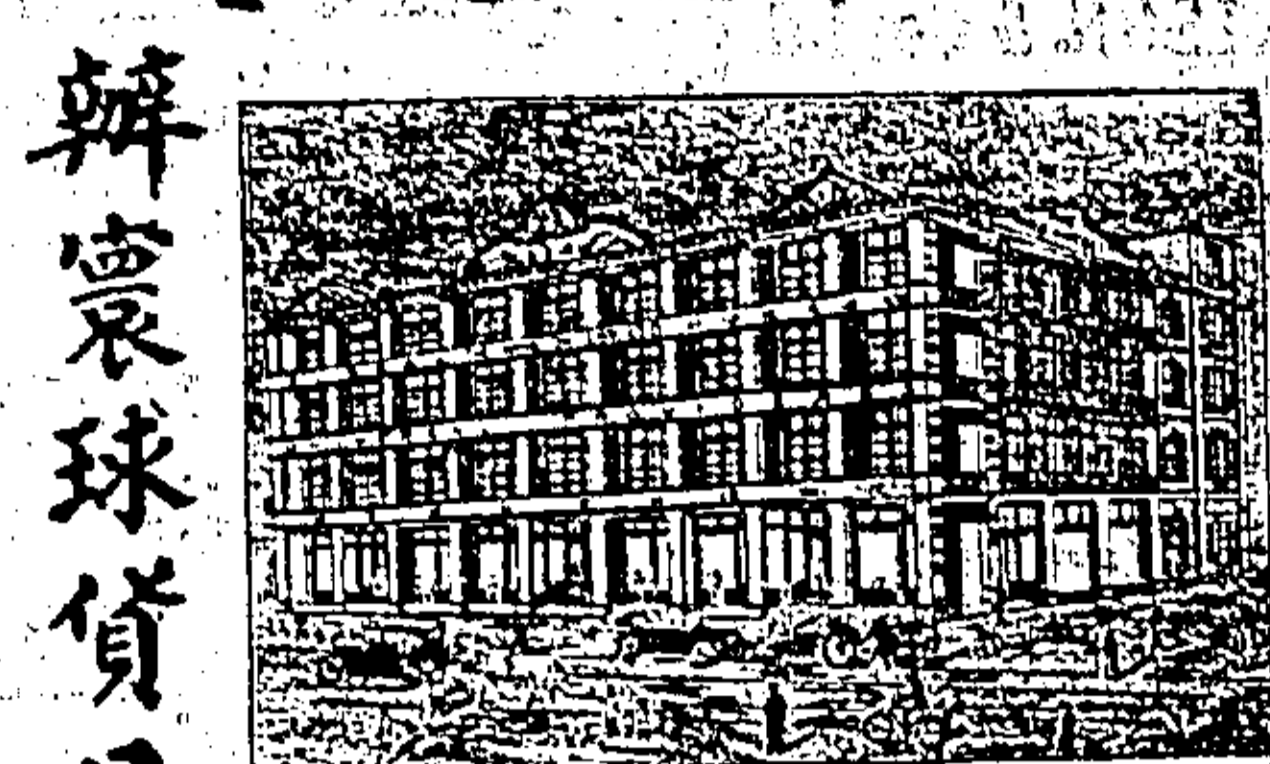
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No. 2 Dock, Kowloon	110	15	10	10	10	10
No. 3 Dock, Kowloon	110	15	10	10	10	10
Patent Slip, No. 1, Kowloon	110	15	10	10	10	10
Patent Slip, No. 2, Kowloon	110	15	10	10	10	10
TAKOKEE	110	15	10	10	10	10
Cowenham Dock	110	15	10	10	10	10
ABERDEEN	110	15	10	10	10	10
Hong Kong	110	15	10	10	10	10
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Address: HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LTD., 5, WYNDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.

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SHANGHAI	SHUYANG	June 6, at 3 p.m.	
SHANGHAI	KAIPOING	June 8, at 3 p.m.	
SHANGHAI	SHUYIANG	June 11, at Noon.	

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HAIPHONG.....	LOKSANG	SATURDAY, June 8, at 7 a.m.
YUENSTEIN.....	CHIFSHING	SUNDAY, June 8, Daylight.
MANILA.....	LOONGSANG	WEDDAY, June 12, at 3 p.m.
MANILA.....	TUENSANG	WEDDAY, June 12, at 3 p.m.

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